

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend Claims 1-19 as follows. All pending claims are reproduced below.

1. (Currently Amended) An authentication apparatus having a plurality of authentication mechanisms, characterized by comprising:
 - input means for inputting authentication information of an object of authentication;
 - determination means for determining whether the authentication information that has been input by said input means is that of an object of authentication that is capable of changing over the plurality of authentication mechanisms;
 - display control means for displaying a list of the plurality of authentication mechanisms if it has been determined by said determination means that the object of authentication is one capable of making the changeover; and
 - registration means for registering, as an effective authentication mechanism, an authentication mechanism that has been selected from the list displayed by said display control means.

2. (Currently Amended) An authentication apparatus having a plurality of authentication mechanisms, characterized by comprising:
 - input means for inputting authentication information of an object of authentication;

determination means for determining whether the authentication information that has been input by said input means is that of an object of authentication that is capable of changing over the plurality of authentication mechanisms;

display control means for displaying a list of the plurality of authentication mechanisms if it has been determined by said determination means that the object of authentication is one capable of making the changeover;

selection means for selecting an authentication mechanism in the list displayed by said display control means; and

registration means for registering the authentication mechanism, which has been selected by said selection means, as an effective authentication mechanism in a case where the authentication mechanism that has been selected by said selection means has registered authentication information input by said input means.

3. (Currently Amended) An authentication apparatus according to claim 1, characterized in that wherein said input means reads a card on which authentication information of an object of authentication has been recorded and inputs said authentication information.

4. (Currently Amended) An authentication apparatus according to claim 1, characterized in that wherein said input means inputs the authentication information by a web browser.

5. (Currently Amended) An authentication apparatus according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 4, characterized in that claim 1, wherein~~ each of said plurality of authentication mechanisms has:

storage means that has registered authentication information of an object of authentication; and

authentication determination means which, in a case where entered authentication information of a user has been registered in said storage means, is for authenticating this object of authentication.

6. (Currently Amended) An authentication apparatus according to ~~any one of claim 5, characterized by claim 1,~~ further having start-up means for starting up an authentication mechanism that has been registered as an effective authentication mechanism by said registration means.

7. (Currently Amended) An authentication method of changing over a plurality of authentication mechanisms and performing authentication, ~~characterized by comprising:~~

an input step of inputting authentication information of an object of authentication;

a determination step of determining whether the authentication information that has been input at said input step is that of an object of authentication that is capable of changing over the plurality of authentication mechanisms;

a display control step of displaying a list of the plurality of authentication mechanisms if it has been determined at said determination step that the object of authentication is one capable of making the changeover; and

a registration step of registering, as an effective authentication mechanism, an authentication mechanism that has been selected from the list displayed at said display control step.

8. (Currently Amended) An authentication method of changing over a plurality of authentication mechanisms and performing authentication, ~~characterized by~~ comprising:

an input step of inputting authentication information of an object of authentication;

a determination step of determining whether the authentication information that has been input at said input step is that of an object of authentication that is capable of changing over the plurality of authentication mechanisms;

a display control step of displaying a list of the plurality of authentication mechanisms if it has been determined at said determination step that the object of authentication is one capable of making the changeover;

a selection step of selecting an authentication mechanism in the list displayed at said display control step; and

a registration step of registering the authentication mechanism, which has been selected at said selection step, as an effective authentication mechanism in a case

where the authentication mechanism that has been selected at said selection step has registered authentication information input at said input step.

9. (Currently Amended) An authentication method according to claim 7, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein a card on which authentication information of an object of authentication has been recorded is read and said authentication information is input at said input step.

10. (Currently Amended) An authentication method according to claim 7, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the authentication information input by a web browser at said input step.

11. (Currently Amended) An authentication method according to any one of ~~claims 7 to 10, characterized in that~~ claim 7, wherein each of said plurality of authentication mechanisms has a storage unit that registers authentication information of an object of authentication, and said method further has an authentication determination step which, in a case where entered authentication information of an object of authentication has been registered in said storage unit, is a step of authenticating this object of authentication.

12. (Currently Amended) An authentication method according to any one of ~~claims 7 to 10, characterized by~~ claim 7, further having a start-up step of starting up

an authentication mechanism that has been registered as an effective authentication mechanism at said registration step.

13. (Currently Amended) An authentication method characterized by comprising:

an input step of inputting authentication information of an object of authentication;

a first authentication step of authenticating whether an object of authentication has access right to a first system using the authentication information of the object of authentication that has been input at said input step, and allowing the object of authentication to access the first system if authentication succeeds;

a second authentication step of authenticating whether the object of authentication has access right to a second system using the authentication information of the object of authentication that has been input at said input step, and allowing the object of authentication to access the second system if authentication succeeds;

a control step of controlling whether the object of authentication will be managed under management of the first system or under management of the second system; and

a verification step of verifying that authentication of the object of authentication in the second system has succeeded at said second authentication step;

wherein if an instruction that shifts the object of authentication from management under the first system to management under the second system has been

recognized, said control step controls said first authentication step and said second authentication step, in order to shift the object of authentication from management under the first system to management under the second system, on the condition that the authentication of the object of authentication at said second authentication step has been verified at said verification step.

14. (Currently Amended) An authentication method according to claim 13, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein said control step controls said first authentication step in such a manner that the object of authentication is excluded from management at said first authentication step in a case where it is verified at said verification step that the object of authentication has been authenticated at said second authentication step.

15. (Currently Amended) An authentication method according to claim 13 or 14, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein said first authentication step authenticates user-level access privilege, and said second authentication step manages administrator-level access privilege.

16. (Currently Amended) An authentication apparatus ~~characterized by~~ comprising:

input means for inputting authentication information of an object of authentication;

first authentication means for authenticating whether an object of authentication has access right to a first system using the authentication information of the object of authentication that has been input by said input means, and allowing the object of authentication to access the first system if authentication succeeds;

second authentication means for authenticating whether the object of authentication has access right to a second system using the authentication information of the object of authentication that has been input by said input means, and allowing the object of authentication to access the second system if authentication succeeds;

control means for controlling whether the object of authentication will be managed under management of the first system or under management of the second system; and

verification means for verifying that authentication of the object of authentication in the second system by said second authentication means has succeeded;

wherein if an instruction that shifts the object of authentication from management under the first system to management under the second system has been recognized, said control means controls said first authentication means and said second authentication means, in order to shift the object of authentication from management under the first system to management under the second system, on the condition that the authentication of the object of authentication by said second authentication means has been verified by said verification means.

17. (Currently Amended) An authentication apparatus according to claim 16, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein said control means controls said first authentication means in such a manner that the object of authentication is excluded from management by said first authentication means in a case where it is verified by said verification means that the object of authentication has been authenticated by said second authentication means.

18. (Currently Amended) An authentication apparatus according to claim 16 or 17, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein said first authentication means authenticates user-level access privilege, and said second authentication means manages administrator-level access privilege.

19. (Currently Amended) An authentication program ~~characterized by~~ comprising:

code for implementing an input step of inputting authentication information of an object of authentication;

code for implementing a first authentication step of authenticating whether an object of authentication has access right to a first system using the authentication information of the object of authentication that has been input at said input step, and allowing the object of authentication to access the first system if authentication succeeds;

code for implementing a second authentication step of authenticating whether the object of authentication has access right to a second system using the authentication information of the object of authentication that has been input at said input

step, and allowing the object of authentication to access the second system if authentication succeeds;

code for implementing a control step of controlling whether the object of authentication will be managed under management of the first system or under management of the second system; and

code for implementing a verification step of verifying that authentication of the object of authentication in the second system has succeeded at said second authentication step;

wherein if an instruction that shifts the object of authentication from management under the first system to management under the second system has been recognized, said control step controls said first authentication step and said second authentication step, in order to shift the object of authentication from management under the first system to management under the second system, on the condition that the authentication of the object of authentication at said second authentication step has been verified at said verification step.